



ELEGY V*



ARE you so waspish that, from time to time,
You nourish bees! and to so good an end,
That having sucked your honey, they must
climb Into your bosom, to bethank their
friend !

And lor a sign, that they come to defend,
Reward you with such weapons as they have !
Nor was it more than your deserts did ciave !
Not much unlike unto the viper's youngling,
Who (nourished with the breeder's dearest
blood)

Snarls with his teeth, nor can endure the
bonglmg Within the viper's belly, but makes food
Of her' Thus Nature worketh in her brood.
So you, forsooth! (nor was it much amiss !)
Feed snakes, which thankfully both sting and
hiss! But if that any of our sex did sting you,
Know this, moreover ! Though you bear the
prick ;
And though their frowns, to Melancholy bring
you:

Yet are we, seldom, or else never, sick!
Nor do we die, like bees! but still be
quick! And soon recovering what we lost
before,

We sting apace ' yet still keep stings in store !